



MDA News Digest Jan. 20, 2015



A Message from Secretary Buddy Hance

Greeting,

Today marks my last day as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The past seven years have been a tremendous opportunity. I am honored to have met so many good people and it has been an amazing learning experience. I've enjoyed getting to know the outstanding staff at the department and see first-hand their steadfast dedication to the work they do on behalf of Marylanders. I extend my deep thanks to all MDA staff members for their commitment to Maryland agriculture.



Secretary Hance

Maryland farmers are recognized as national leaders for their conservation efforts. I will especially miss visiting farms across the state, seeing new technology being implemented and the diversity of value-added enterprises that are helping to keep our farms viable for the next generation of Maryland farmers. The future for Maryland agriculture is, and will continue to be, bright and prosperous.

Congratulations to Governor-elect Hogan's nomination for MDA Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder. I wish him and the new Administration much success!

New Agriculture Secretary Nominated



Bartenfelder Named New Agriculture Secretary

Joseph Bartenfelder was nominated on Dec. 23, 2014 by Governor-elect Larry Hogan to serve as the next Secretary of Agriculture, pending Senate approval. Bartenfelder grew up on a farm and for more than 35 years has been a full-time farmer and small businessman. His family lives on the home farm in Caroline County, and also owns and operates two other farms in Dorchester County. The Bartenfelder family sells produce at the Baltimore City Farmers' Market and wholesale, raises poultry, and grows wheat, beans, and corn.

Headlines from MDA - General News Wrap Up

Below are some of MDA's most recent news releases.

- [Agricultural Certainty Program Regulations Adopted](#)
- [MDA Announces Record Cover Crop Planting](#)
- [Annual Implementation Reporting Forms Mailed to Regulated Farmers](#)
- [Governor's Intergovernmental Commission on Ag Develops Recommended Definition of Agri-Tourism](#)
- [Thousand Cankers Disease Detected in Cecil County](#)
- [Avoid Cold Weather Hazards for Livestock and Pets](#)
- [Maryland Buyer-Grower Expo Scheduled for Jan. 22; Expo Connects Maryland Farmers with Buyers](#)
- [Canadian Plant Buyers to Visit Maryland Nurseries Jan. 24-25](#)
- [MDA Issues Request for Proposals Regarding Manure Management Technologies](#) (Proposals due March 6)
- [MDA Offers Fast Track Option for Manure Transport Program; New Application Can be Processed within 48 Hours](#)
- [Maryland Horse Industry Board Awards \\$30,000 in Grants](#)
- [MDA Awards Nearly \\$475,000 in Grants to Help Reduce Euthanasia Rates of Companion Animals Across the State](#)
- [Maryland Horse History Trail Receives Tourism Award](#)
- [Maryland Youth Riding Team Accepts December Touch of Class Award](#)
- [Anne Arundel Mongol Derby Competitor Receives November Touch of Class Award](#)



Maryland Buyer-Grower Meeting Coming Jan. 22



Spay & Neuter Program Awards Grants

Read all press releases

Visit our New Website: www.mda.maryland.gov

MDA's new website is live!

Our **website** has been redesigned. It's not only cleaner and easier to navigate, it also follows the state's responsive design, which is easier to use on mobile devices. We hope you will take a look and let us know what you think.



Save the Date!

**MARYLAND
FARM & HARVEST**

The second season of Maryland Public Television's highest rated local program, **Maryland Farm &**



Harvest, premiered in November. You can watch it every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Episodes repeat Thursdays at 11:30 p.m. & Sundays at 6 a.m. on MPT-HD; also

on Fridays at 6 p.m. on MPT2. All past episodes can be viewed online any time, without charge, at [MPT's website](#).

MDA in Pictures & Video

We post photos to [Flickr](#) after an event. Photos we take during an event are often on [Instagram](#) (which is best viewed on a mobile device). These photos are free for anyone (including media) to download & use. We just ask that you credit MDA if you use them.

Photos:

- See all [MDA Flickr albums](#).
- See [MDA's Instagram](#) photos

Videos:

- [The Maryland Buyer Grower Meeting](#) on YouTube
- [The Maryland's Best YouTube channel](#) has lots of short farmer profiles you can watch anywhere. Visit a farm without leaving home!



MDA Secretary Buddy Hance gets help lighting MDA Christmas tree.

Facebook: You're Invited to Like Us!

We update our [Facebook](#) page several times a week.

We like you! Come like us!

Come join us on Facebook! You'll see both fun and serious posts. You do not need a Facebook account to view our pages, but if you have an account, you can post comments and tell us what's on your mind.

- [MDA's Official Facebook page](#)
- [Maryland's Best Facebook page](#)
- [Maryland Horse Industry Board Facebook Page](#)
- [Maryland Farm to School Facebook page](#)



Follow Us on Twitter



[@MdAgDept](#) - the official Twitter account of the Maryland Department of Agriculture

[@MdsBest](#) - the Twitter feed for MDA's Marketing Office and the Maryland's Best Program

[@MdEquines](#) - the Twitter feed for MDA's Maryland Horse Industry Board

[@MdFarm2School](#) - the Twitter for MDA's Farm to School Program

We invite your feedback

Thank you for reading our newsletter. We are always looking for ways to improve how we serve our constituents. Please send your comments, suggestions and ideas to mda.news@maryland.gov or call 410-841-5881. Or contact:

- Julie Oberg, Communications Director, 410-841-5888, julie.oberg@maryland.gov
- Vanessa Orlando, Public Information Officer, 410-841-5889, vanessa.orlando@maryland.gov

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